THE International Collector

and Victor Stamp News

Jan.-Feb., 1912

Volume 2

Number 3

Editor and Publisher

Gordon H. Crouch

911 Dovercourt Rd.

TORONTO - - CANADA

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B R — N — —, a British Colony

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AND

"The Dominion Philatelist"

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G. H. CROUCH 911 Dovercourt Road

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VOLUME 2 JAN. - FEB., 1912 NUMBER 3

THE EDITOR'S VIEWS

A little later this issue than I liked, but still here. I have been busy getting more advertisers, and it looks as if I have been successful. Subscriptions are beginning to come in in increasing volume and next month I can promise you four more pages. If this rate keeps up I will have a good start for my aim of, what do you think? Only a mere 100 pages each month. Rather ambitious isn't it? But everybody help and we'll get there. By the way, have you sent in your subscription yet? If not, fill in the enclosed form and send it along with your "two bits."

Notice the missing letter contest. Have a little fun and see what you can do.

The letter last month about Auction Sales seems to have promoted some interest. Notice an unusually illuminative and informing letter from a New Brunswick correspondent. He seems to "hit the nail on the head" all right.

There has been some agitation about our new Canadian issue. Some think the wording should be in both French and English; and most of us think the present plan is best. I insert here a resolution passed here recently by an Orange Lodge:

The following resolution has been passed by Queen City L. O. L. No. 877, in connection with the reported agitation to have Canadian postage stamps bear French words as well as English, and was ordered to be forwarded to the Premier, the Right Hon. R. L. Borden, and to the Legislative Committee of Ontario West:

"It is moved and seconded that we, the members of Queen City L.O.L. No. 857 protest against any other than the English language being used on the postage stamps of Canada."

One of the best attempts I have yet seen to wipe out the philatelic parasite is now being made by Mr. Victor A. Trowles, of Toronto, by means of a "Bulletin Information Service." A number of stamp firms have agreed to furnish Mr. Trowles with news of all fraudulent cases which may come to their notice; they in turn to receive all information sent by other members of the Bulletin Service. I learn that Bulletins will be issued weekly or even daily if circumstances warrant. Thus in this way

the stamp fraud will be systematically exposed and his life must of necessity be very brief. The cost of the Bulletin Service is at present 25c. per month. For $3.00 per year this is one of the best and most reliable forms of stamp insurance that can be carried. A warning must be better than a bad debt at any time. Mr. Trowles is well known to philatelists as the publisher of that darling little publication, "Philatelic Pikers," which caused a sensation a few months ago amongst the frauds of our beloved Hobby.

SOME RADICAL COLLECTORS

By Henry Herbert Huff.

The term "radical" collector, if you will permit it, I should apply to those who are extremely original in their ways of collecting and seek departure from the usual methods. A greater part of the "radical" collectors cannot rightfully be called philatelists as they do not collect because of their love for stamps, but for love of some one thing peculiar either to the stamps themselves or their arrangement such as color, design, shape, etc.

There are quite a few people in this world who collect only stamps of a particular color. One has a collection of stamps printed in different shades of red; another, of green; still another, of blue, etc. To be sure such a collection would be pretty if not of any great philatelic interest.

Stamps of odd shape and design seem to fascinate many young and some advanced collectors. Nearly every young collector likes to have them well sprinkled through his collection and one capricious has succeeded in accumulating quite a large number of these sort of stamps and his collection must be a curious sight, indeed.

The bright and gaudy stamps of certain South American and other countries to be had so cheaply in unused condition certainly make a handsome collection even if they are speculative. I know of an advanced collector whose specialty is these and of another collector who collects only pretty unused stamps, shunning everything that is not possessed of beauty even if it is unused. Truly his collection is a handsome sight even if he is one of Seebeck's patrons.

A few collectors restrict themselves to surcharged specimens, others to "errors," and some to forgeries and counterfeits. There are a few collectors who are making

collections of the different shades in which a certain stamp was printed. The one cent. value, 1902 series, furnishes ample material for this purpose.

The designs on stamps furnish material for many of "special" collections. Quite a few collectors have collections of stamps bearing pictures of zoological interest; some of stamps bearing the likeness of people; some, of stamps illustrating methods of transportation; and heraldic enthusiasts find ample material for a large collection of stamps bearing heraldic emblems.

An Australian collector has a collection containing only stamps bearing the portrait of Queen Victoria, one-half of which is devoted to those showing full face and the others side face heads. This same gentleman possesses a collection containing only stamps of the face value of 1d. and 2d.

The well known Philippine collector, Theo. Siddall, collects only one stamp of a series where all values of the series have the same design. This arrangement obviates the wearisome repetition of the same design with the only difference between each value being in the color or shade. He also groups the stamps bearing pictures of animals, birds, buildings, trees, trains of cars, steamboats, and the like, together.

Collections of none but unused stamps and others restricted to cancelled specimens are quite common. A collection of reprints would be something novel, though I never heard of one.

There are scores of ways to make something new and original in the way of a stamp accumulation. Stamps so arranged, as a general thing, loose much of their philatelic interest but the work of making such a collection is pleasant and the result, in many instances, handsome or, at least, something interesting.

THE POST OFFICE BUSINESS GROWING

The Canadian post office established a new record in the volume of business during the last fiscal year. Over five hundred and fifty-three million letters and postcards were transmitted, which is a gain of ten per cent. Eleven million dollars' worth of stamps were sold, which is an increase of over a million dollars. More than seventy-seven million dollars' worth of money orders and postal notes were sold. The revenue of the department was about twelve and a quarter millions.

Of the money orders eight and a half million dollars' worth were issued to be cashed in the United States, eight millions for Britain, almost three millions for Italy, and a little less for Austria, while four hundred thousand were for Hungary. There was almost a million dollars' worth sent to Japan.

Toronto, as usual, leads the offices of the Dominion in the gross amount of business done, the total revenue for the head and sub-offices being $1,963,065. Montreal comes next with a total of $1,152,177; Winnipeg, $836,931; Vancouver, $348,780; Ottawa, $214,570; Hamilton, $213,979; Quebec, $160,968; Calgary, $158,543; London, $155,029; St. John, $119,607; Halifax, $119,561.

WANTED ANOTHER SEEBECK

For many years it has been the fashion to revile the name of Seebeck, because, once upon a time Mr. N. F. Seebeck made contracts with certain incompetent and improvident governments to provide them each year with a fresh and clean issue of postage stamps and took the unsold remainders as his pay. He had to be paid in some way, and if he chose stamps in lieu of money he showed his foresight in selecting the thing he might hope to get. The gringo who bargains for cash from most republics in Central America and some in South America has about as much chance as the proverbial snowball in the superheated future.

There were two objections made to these contracts: First, that they provided for a new issue each year, and, secondly, that under them Mr. Seebeck retained and exercised the right to make reprints. We have learned to distinguish the reprints from the originals and no longer need tear them. As for the annual issue (or the three sets for those who collect official and due stamps as well as the regular postage issues) has there been any improvement since Seebeck's time? He provided new stamps annually according to his contract and provided abundantly, so that, if there were provisional issues, it was not his fault. His stamps were always of pleasing designs and colors and good workmanship. At the end of each year they could be purchased at trifling prices, a feature to which we have usually not objected in other demonetized issues. What do we find now in the so-called Seebeck countries? Whenever they could raise the price

or obtain credit they have had a new issue of stamps, but seldom a sufficient supply to last long. Then they have resorted to provisional surcharges while seeking a new contractor. The result has been far worse than before. If the days of Seebeck were evil how much worse have they been since the countries of which he was patron have been left to their own devices. Look at Equador with its tiresome lists of postal and fiscal stamps overprinted with new dates. Look at Salvador with its wheels and anchors and dates and new values, printed on all sorts of labels. Last of all and worst of all, Nicaragua! Was there ever before such an exhibition of incompetence and culpability? Such a floor of surcharges, due to postal needs or to the fact that there was money in them for some one. Such settings and re-settings, each with its varieties and errors. So many colors of ink, so many styles of type, overprints for Bluefields and Cabo Gracias and makeshifts for official use. Were there ever before so many philatelic iniquities in a few short years? Compared to them how clean and simple appear the despised Seebeck issues.

If there yet remain any collectors of the stamps of the countries which Seebeck made anathema would they not rise and call blessed any man who would take his place and provide for each year its three straight issues (regular, official and postage due) and relieve them the burden of endless provisionals? And would he not be welcomed by the unfortunate makers of catalogues and albums who now have to watch, list and provide space for these swarms of nondescripts? We are beginning to realize that even the devil is not always as black as he is painted. Peace to the memory of Seebeck. May his successor soon be sent to us.—S. S. & C. Co., Circular.

THE PESSIMIST'S PAGE

Being in the right place at the right time is often but an accident.

Cuts made by barbers are not satisfactory for illustrating purposes.

As a rule a woman ceases to be a man's affinity if he has to support her.

The best way to induce people to respect your advice is to keep it to yourself.

THE LETTER BAG

Fredericton, N.B., Jan. 9, 1912.

Editor of "International Collector,"
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Sir,—

In the December number of the "International Collector" I observed an article written by "F. W.," in which he deplored the increasing popularity of the Auction Sales held by various firms throughout the country. "F. W." claims that "the continual stream of offerings will tend to the cutting of prices," furthermore, he states, "if not checked will certainly tend to the lowering of stamp prices." "F. W." seemingly bemoans the fact that the average collector can now obtain specimens at a lower price than formerly.

He does not take into account the fact that the average dealer makes from 40 per cent. to 100 per cent. of profit. Would "F. W." condemn a store for underselling a competitor? Will he then condemn a stamp firm for underselling a rival? Would he hesitate to purchase a "New Brunswick Connell" at an auction for $25.00? Are not the prices of stamps inflated enough now, without trying to raise them still higher by the restriction of legitimate competition?

Why is it that in Messrs. Gibbons' catalog for 1912, the prices have shown a marked decrease? Surely this firm is reputable enough? And still "F. W." bemoans the fact that the lowering of the prices will decrease the number of bona fide dealers. No, Mr. "F. W." The reputable stamp firm, like a good bank, can weather, yes, can become prosperous, by the lowering of prices. Only the spurious merchants and the "collector-dealers" the scourges, the parasites of Philately, need worry; while the collector encouraged at the downfall of the bloated values, will take to his Hobby with renewed vigor.

Thanking you for your space,

I remain,

H. H. V. W.

A man may move in the highest social circles without getting very far ahead.

Bad habits cost money, but there are men who seem to think them worth the price.

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No two stamps alike in any Set.

15 Argentine. 10
35 Austria 10
5 Austria (Turkey) .04
2 Austria (Crete) . .04
4 Azores 05
25 Belgium 10
5 Bermuda 08
6 Bardoor 10
10 Bolivia 07
12 Brazil 10
12 Bosnia 15
7 B. Guiana 07
2 Brunswick 05
25 Bulgaria 20
10 Costa Rica 08
3 orea 06
3 Crete 04
12 Cuba 05
50 Cuba 50
10 Chili 03
10 Ceylon 14
15 Columbia 14
8 China 08
10 Cape Good Hope. .04
25 Canada 15
20 Denmark 07
5 Dominican Republic 05
34 Dutch India (five) .60
5 Ecuador 08
10 Egypt 06
2 Fernando Poo . . .10
4 Fiji 10
20 France 07
25 Germany 08
25 Great Britain 08
10 Greece 05
10 Guatemala 08
10 Hawaii 20
15 Hayti 30
8 Honduras 30
8 Hong Kong 10
20 Hungary 08
3 Iceland 05
20 India 10
30 Italy 10
10 Jamaica 10
25 Japan 15
10 Luxemburg 06
4 Malta 05
50 Mexico 1.00
10 Mauritius 20
25 Mexican Revenues .10
30 Netherlands 20
10 Newfoundland . . .40
10 New South Wales .10
20 New Zealand 10
15 Nicaragua 12
4 Orange River 08
10 Panama 25
10 Persia 10
25 Peru 25
8 Philippines 06
20 Porougal 06
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5 Prussia 12
15 Queensland 30
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20 Russia 18
20 Salvador 15
15 Servia 15
20 Turkey 07
50 U.S. cut envelopes .25
100 U. S. 25

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10 Confederate bills perfect ..... .25

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DOES THIS MEAN YOU?

In Saltpetre avenue, close to the Pit,
Where the vitrol reservoirs sputter and spit,
There's a bed on a griddle that never gets damp—
Prepared for the fellow who encloses no stamp.

At the Holten Hotel, in the Sulphuric glade,
Where the temperature's nine-ninety-eight in the shade,
There's a thrice heated chamber for any old guy
Who writes to ask questions without meaning to buy.

Where the billows of brimstone delightfully roar,
And the geysers their seething red cataracts pour,
There's a blistering bath in a cauldron of flame—
For the chump who neglects to sign any name.

WHEN WILL IT END?

Philatelists are rejoicing in the prospect of a novelty that awaits them on January 1—the first issue of a set of postage stamps of the Principality of Liechtenstein. This little country, which, although a sovereign State, is in point of size smaller than the Borough of Brooklyn, being, in fact, only sixty-five square miles in area, is run under the complete influence of its big neighbor, Austria, and has hitherto contented itself with Austrian stamps. The tiny principality has now followed in the wake of its fellow so-called independent States, the Republic of San Marino and the Principality of Monaco, in asserting in this way its postal "independence," and now the microscopic Republic of Andorra, lost in the wilds of the Pyrenees, on the Franco-Spanish frontier, is the only remaining European State that has not its own postage stamps.

"EDUCATIONAL SERIES"

No. 2.

Facts About Europe.

The German Empire is a confederation of twenty-six States, and owes its origin to the great victories of the German troops in the Franco-German War of 1870. King Louis II., of Bavaria, proposed to the other German sovereigns that the President of the then newly-founded North-German Confederation, King William of Prussia, should receive the title of German Emperor. Thus on

20th CENTURY

Anjouan, 35 and 45, both for..... $ .25
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January 18th, 1871, in the Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles, King William was solemnly proclaimed Emperor of Germany. Though already seventy-three years old, he was favored by Providence with a long series of years, which were carefully employed by him in strengthening and embellishing the brilliant edifice of German Unity. On March 9th, 1888, the heroic Emperor, well stricken in years, and regretted by all his subjects and esteemed even by his enemies, peacefully expired. His son and successor, Frederick III., the invincible General and the favorite of the German people, after some months' reigning, became a victim to an incurable disease. He died on June 5th, 1888. Since 1888 the Imperial Throne of Germany is occupied by Frederick III.'s son William II.

The North-German Confederation is indebted for its origin to the desire of Prussia to settle the German affairs quite independently and excluding Austria. The War of 1866, between Prussia and Austria, which proved victorious for the Prussians, gave Prussia full liberty of arranging matters at her pleasure. Between August 18th and October 21st of the same year deputies from all North-German States and the northern part of the Grand Duchy of Hesse assembled at Berlin to constitute a Confederation of all these States under the leadership of Prussia.

Thurn and Taxis is the name of a noble family of Milan. Roger I., a descendant from this family, in the reign of the German Emperor Frederick III., established the first post in the Tyrol. In 1493, Leonhard of Taxis, was appointed by the Emperor Maximilian I., Post-Master-General of Spain and the Netherlands. The Emperor Matthias made one of the descendants of Leonhard of Taxis, Post-Master-General of the German Empire in 1615. Since the close of the Thirty Years' War, the German States one after the other began to organize a post of their own so that, towards the beginning of the nineteenth century, only a few States were under the Postal Administration of Thurn and Taxis. The North-German Confederation having been established in 1866, Prussia abolished the Thurn and Taxis post. A treaty was signed between the princely house of Thurn and Taxis, and Prussia according to which all its privileges with respect to the post passed over to Prussia.

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The Austro-Hungarian Empire is a combination of kingdoms and principalities. It is made up of many nations and races, having little sympathy with each other. The Austro-Hungarian monarchy is a dual State, consisting of Austria proper, and of Hungary, each managing its own affairs. Under one Emperor, each of these two States has its own Ministers and Parliament. Austria proper consists of the following States:

The Arch-Duchy of Austria (which is the nucleus of the Empire).

The Kingdoms of Bohemia, Calacia and Dalmatia.

The Duchies of Salzburg, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola and Bukowina. The Margraviates of Moravia and of Istira. The Counties Palatine of Tyrol and Vorarlberg and of Goors and Gravisca, and the Town and District of Trieste.

Hungary consists of the Kingdom of Hungary proper, of the Grandy-Duchy of Transylvania and of the United Kingdom of Slavonia and Croatia, with the Free Port of Fiume. The former Turkish Province of Bosnia and of Herzegovina is under the Austrian Government.

The Turkish Empire in Europe was founded in 1453 when Constantinople, formerly called Byzantium, fell into the hands of the Turks. It soon became a powerful State, and a veritable plague to all Christian nations in the south of Europe, but after the death of Soliman II., it soon fell into decay. Now Turkey is entirely removed fro mthe Danube and retains only a third of what used to be Turkey-in-Europe.

Greece having been for many centuries subject to the other nations, last to the Turks, did not regain her full liberty until the beginning of this century, and then only in consequence of the intervention of England, France and Russia in 1829.

The Kingdom of Portugal was founded in the beginning of the twelfth century, and consists of the Provinces taken from the Moors. In the fifteenth century, Prince Henry, the Navigator, made the Portuguese nation the first maritime power. Instigated and inspired by him Vasco de Gama discovered the passage to India around the Cape of Good Hope. Henceforth the Portuguese applied themselves very diligently to secure the commerce of India, but when Portugal was united to Spain, the Indian as well as the African and American colonies, fell a prey to the English and Dutch.

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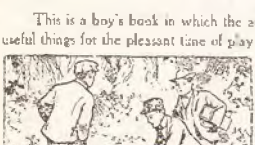

It has required an investment of thousands of dollars to enable the American boy to obtain this master work, devoted to boys' amusement, instruction and useful pastime. Any boy old enough to read should have a copy of this valuable book. The best way to give you an idea of what the book contains is to print a few chapter heads below:

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How to make a Silver Tree
Burning Steel
A Ghostly Fire
Coal Gas
To Electrify Brown Paper
Electrified Sealing Wax
An Imitation Shipwreck
An Electrical Waltz
An Electrical Wall
A Galvanic Battery
An Electrotyping Apparatus
A Cheap Telephone
A Home Made Microscope
A Garden Camera Obscura
A Shadow Pantomime
To See Through a Brick
The Magic Lantern
To Make a Magnet
A Boys' Steam Engine and its Construction
How to Make a Lead Tree
A Bleaching Apparatus
Fire on Water
Invisible Ink
Colored Fires
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An Electric Kiss
A Mimic Thunderstorm
The Electrical See Saw
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The Invisible Rendered Visible
To Render the Visible Invisible
Magnetic Toys
Sun Dial
A Wind Mill
To Make An Aeolian Harp
Comic Paper Mask
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The Fox Hunt
Horse and Cart
Soldiers Marching Out of a Fort
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Cutter
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IF

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JOHN WANNAMAKER